From: Scott Schrader
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been agahst that the Department of Justice would basically bow to Microsoft yet again in another premature settlement against Federal antitrust law violations. Microsoft is not just another competitor, they are a sledgehammer tightening the vise around the sensitive parts of everybody in the Intel-compatible PC business.

It is not possible to punish Microsoft with a "conduct watch" on past findings of this case, because the dynamic and hyper-speed technology has already moved on. Limiting their plugins and browser distribution will not make a difference.

Right now, Microsoft is trying to hijack the Internet. Through their usual use of non-standard "standards" and bogus polls, like the ZDnet England poll on use of Java versus "dot-net" technology preferences in software development, Microsoft is trying to direct businesses to put their order, service, procurement, and customer support standards on "dot-net" proprietary technologies. Technologies that Microsoft will only permit full support on in their own Windows operating systems. Which will kill all trusted transaction systems in Unix and other solid, secure real-time capable operating systems. Only extreme niche products, like the stock industry clearance system with its unique and desperately-real-time crashingly-heavy transaction load will have any traction against Microsoft.

In addition to which, Microsoft has finally admitted in a Bill Gates strategy letter in the past week, that they have a wide-open system that is not safe or secure at all, and the company needs to change its primary focus to nailing the barn doors shut to slow down the hacker parade through MS-powered sites.

I believe the only possibility of effective remedy against Microsoft is a structural remedy, and as a resident of Minnesota, I prefer something along the lines of the nine dissident States requiring a breakup of the Microsoft cartel along business lines.

If that is not done, as one Tom Toles cartoon had it, Microsoft will have integrated the US government, and it will be an icon in the corner of the startup window.

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